

As part of the Recovery Act, we enacted the Build America Bonds program that leveraged \$4 billion in Federal funds to \$181 billion in private sector funding, completing more than 2,000 projects in every State in the country. I introduced a bill to extend this successful program because there remain unmet needs in our communities, and there are millions of construction workers awaiting the opportunity to return to work and communities that would benefit from the projects. We haven't even had a hearing on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, Dwight Eisenhower did not subscribe to the current Republican mantra that investing in America was something to be shunned. Ronald Reagan did not share the current Republican dictum that serving one's country in public service is somehow a less-than-noble endeavor and the way to prosperity is through devastating cuts to the public sector.

Congress must act to ensure long-term fiscal responsibility, but it should not come at the expense of millions of Americans struggling to get back to work. As we contemplate our economic policies, we really should ask: What would Ronald Reagan do?

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of this assembly, to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. Purify their intentions, that they will say what they believe and act consistent with their words.

May they be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this place. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work, to contribute to the common good. May they use their talents as good stewards of Your many gifts and thereby be true servants of justice and partners in peace.

As elections across our Nation highlight the competition of ideas, grant that those who sit in the people's House will place the good of our Nation and its citizens above political gain. It

is a difficult task—all the more, it is why we ask Your grace during these days.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS MUCH HIGHER THAN ADVERTISED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's policies are failing our families and destroying jobs. Since the President was sworn into office in January 2009, our citizens have lost a net of 740,000 jobs, as was discovered on Friday.

For the past 40 months, the unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent. Sadly, during the month of May, this rate increased from 8.1 percent in April to 8.2 percent. The biased liberal media can no longer conceal the truth of the President's failed policies.

And to make matters worse, if the number of Americans who want to work but have stopped looking for a job and those who are forced to work part-time were factored into the equation, the real unemployment rate would rise to 14.8 percent.

House Republicans have passed over 30 bipartisan bills which would promote job creation. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take immediate action on these pieces of legislation and help put American families back to work.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. This year marks the Diamond Jubilee—the 60th year—of Queen Elizabeth II's reign as Monarch

of the United Kingdom. As our closest relation, it's only fitting that we join the United Kingdom in celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation as Queen was on June 2, 1953—when she was just 25 years old—following the death of her father, King George IV.

Her Majesty is the second-longest-serving Monarch in British history. She has conducted regular meetings with every British Prime Minister since Winston Churchill. She serves as a patron of over 600 charities. Over the last 60 years, she has conducted 261 official visits to 116 different countries. Her Majesty has received eight Presidents of the United States and made five State visits to the U.S. Last year, she became the first British Monarch since 1911 to visit the Republic of Ireland, a significant and historic move for peace and reconciliation.

Throughout decades of change, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, has served as a constant and steadfast presence in the United Kingdom and the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and celebrating Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

OBAMACARE GRANTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in today's Wall Street Journal, Dr. Steven Greer relates his disastrous experience trying to review grants for a program created by ObamaCare.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation will hand out more than \$10 billion in the coming decade. Dr. Greer was one of the chairmen overseeing panels of outside experts who were supposed to review grants for projects to train new types of health care workers. The team had only 2 weeks to review applications that ran more than 100 pages. Among other things, work was lost to poor computer systems, leading some panelists to quit in disgust. Dr. Greer himself quit after his complaints went unanswered.

Despite the problems, the money went out the door—\$1.9 million to a George Washington University project that only saves \$1.7 million, \$4.5 million to a San Antonio project that only saves \$5 million, and \$5.8 million for the University of Chicago to create 80 jobs. All this poorly supervised spending while we rack up more than \$1 trillion in debt every year. More evidence that our debt problem is a spending problem.

LOOMING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE CRISIS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, unless Congress acts in the next 25 days, the Stafford student loan interest rate will